

WHAT'S HAPPENING WEDNESDAY

Kansas Immunization Program

March 4, 2020

VFC Consultant On-Call

The Consultant On-Call can be reached Monday—Friday, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. at 785-296-5592.



CHIEF CHAT

Hold on to your hats! March is off to a very busy start! Coronavirus, grant applications, upcoming Governor's Public Health Conference, regular day-to-day activities, March Madness, and preparations for Spring. Wow! We need more time in the day.

I am pleased to announce that in future issues of What's Happening Wednesday, there will be a new section call Tuberculosis (TB) Tidbits. The TB program is housed in the same Bureau as the Immunization Program so it only makes sense to provide an avenue for that program to share information as needed in this newsletter.

You will notice in this issue that the TB staff are being introduced. Please take a few minutes to learn about the staff and their roles and responsibilities. We are very excited about this new addition and hope that it will be beneficial for all.

Another change to announce is the update on February 21, 2020 to

the General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization: Best Practices Guidance of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Major areas of changes include:

- Timing and Spacing of Immunobiologics:
- Contraindications and Precautions
- Storage and Handling of Immunobiologics

The complete, detailed list of changes can be found at the [CDC website](#).

Thank you again for all your hard work with ensuring vaccinations are available for children and adults in your practice. You all are the reason there is such success with vaccinations in Kansas. If there is anything that the Kansas Immunization Program or the Tuberculosis Program can do to assist in your efforts please let us know. Enjoy the changing season!

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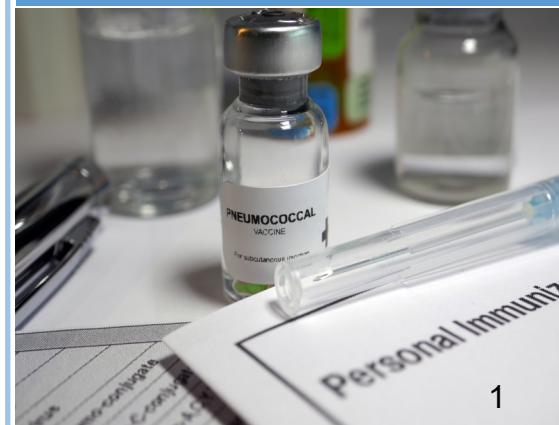
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INJECTION OF EDUCATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) work together to manage the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), a vaccine safety monitoring system. Anyone - patients, parents, healthcare providers, and vaccine manufactures - can and are encouraged to report an adverse event to VAERS. Completing a VAERS report is a simple process that provides valuable information to ensure the continued safety of vaccines.

Healthcare providers are actually required by law to report adverse events listed by vaccine manufactures as contraindications to further doses of the vaccine or any adverse event listed in the [VAERS Table of Reportable Events](#). While each vaccine has specific related adverse events, these events are always reportable if they occur within 7 days after a vaccination, such as vasovagal syncope and shoulder injury related to vaccine administration.

Healthcare providers are also encouraged to report vaccine administration errors and any adverse events that occur after a licensed vaccine is administered even if its unclear whether the vaccine caused the event. While it is important to take the time to avoid vaccine administration errors, humans make mistakes. Using VAERS to report vaccine administration errors allows for persistent administration errors to be identified.

VAERS encourages online reporting at [Report an Adverse Event to VAERS](#). While more information is appreciated, reports at minimum require patient age, date of birth, and sex; vaccine brand name and dosage; date, time and location administered; date and time when adverse event(s) started; symptoms and outcome of adverse events; and applicable physician contact information and medical tests. A [VAERS checklist](#) contains all accepted fields in a VAERS report.

FREE CONTINUED EDUCATION

Nurses and medical assistants play a key role in improving vaccine acceptance, as they come in contact with parents throughout the office visit. CDC has launched a new free continuing education (CE) activity called [How Nurses and Medical Assistants Foster a Culture of Immunization in the Practice](#). The new CE teaches practical strategies to improve vaccination rates in the practice, including how to deliver clear and concise vaccine recommendations and address parents' frequently asked questions. Speakers include Virginia Chambers, Director of the Medical Assisting Program at Portland Community College and Andrea Polkinghorn, Enterprise Immunization Strategy Leader at Sanford Health.

Vaccine-Preventable Disease Outbreaks and Clusters in Kansas

Pertussis – WYANDOTTE COUNTY: KDHE and the Unified Government Public Health Department have been investigating a community-wide outbreak of pertussis since November 2019. Initially, several cases were linked within the same school, but later spread to other schools in the area. The last onset of illness related to the outbreak was January 20, 2020. Pending any additional reports of cases, this outbreak will be declared over with 34 confirmed and probable cases.

For updated case counts of infectious diseases reportable to Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response, please visit the KDHE webpage at http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/case_reports_by_county.htm. Note these numbers are preliminary and are subject to change based on case review. For any questions about reporting or for technical assistance please call the KDHE epidemiology hotline at 877-427-7317.

Interim Estimates of 2019-2020 seasonal influenza vaccine effectiveness

CDC published [Interim Estimates of 2019–20 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness—United States, February 2020](#) in the February 21 issue of *MMWR* (pages 177–182). A summary for the press is reprinted below.

CDC's interim flu vaccine effectiveness (VE) estimates show that the flu vaccine has reduced doctor visits associated with flu illness by almost half (VE = 45%) so far this season. This is consistent with estimates of flu vaccine effectiveness from previous seasons that ranged from 40%–60% when flu vaccine viruses were similar to circulating flu viruses. Vaccination is providing substantial protection (VE = 55%) for children, who have been particularly hard hit by flu

Influenza Surveillance



Influenza activity in Kansas remains elevated. The Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sites continue to monitor patients for influenza-like illness (ILI) – symptoms include a fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$) and the presence of a cough and/or sore throat. During the week ending February 22nd, ILINet sites reported 7.5% of visits were due to ILI. Syndromic surveillance indicated 9.7% of visits to emergency departments in Kansas were due to ILI. All data is subject to change. KHEL has detected A/H1 in 38 specimens, influenza A (not subtyped) in one specimen, and influenza B in one specimen. Twenty-five influenza outbreaks and three school closures have been reported to KDHE this season. As a reminder, outbreaks of any disease are reportable and should be reported to the epidemiology hotline at (877) 427-7317. Stay updated on influenza activity at <http://www.kdheks.gov/flu/surveillance.htm>.

Staff Introductions

Kimberly Winans graduated Wichita State University in 2015 with a BSN. Kimberly has worked as the Tuberculosis Nurse (TB) Consultant for 1 year. As the nurse consultant she is the clinical contact for health departments, hospitals, and community providers. She answers questions regarding medication dosing, side effects, length of treatment, appropriateness of treatment, recommended lab tests and results, TB symptoms, and just about anything else TB-related.

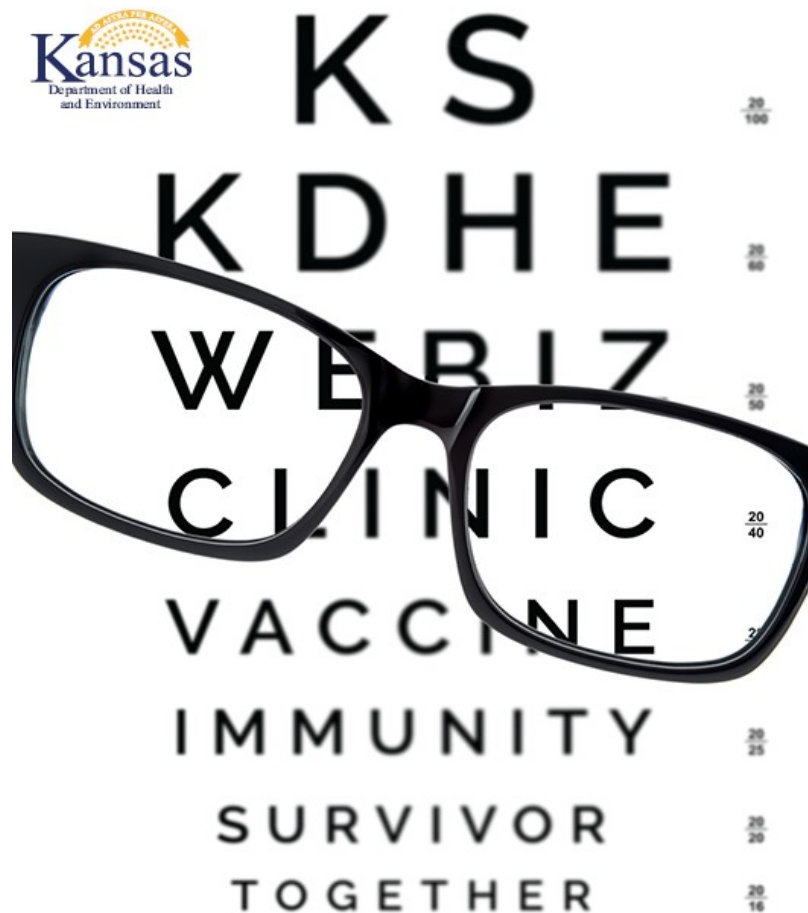
The main focus of her job is to monitor all active TB cases, suspect cases, and Mycobacterium Other Than Tuberculosis (MOTT) cases to ensure completeness of records and CDC data. She also maintains paper records of confirmed active TB cases for quarterly cohort review with the state medical consultant.



Lisa Edgerton-Johnston has her bachelors degree from the University of Kansas in Behavioral Science. Lisa has been with the TB program for almost 6 years. Her title is Health Educator & Contact Investigation Coordinator. Along with educational outreach and helping to coordinate contact investigations, she is in charge of all Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases, the CDC's Electronic Disease Notifications distribution and management, 12 week medication (3HP) application review, and TB care application reviews.



2020 Kansas Immunization Conference



2020 KANSAS IMMUNIZATION CONFERENCE

WITNESSING THE IMPACT OF VACCINES WITH 2020 VISION

JUNE 8-11, 2020

Tony's Pizza Event Center | 800 The Midway | Salina, Kansas

For more information: Contact KU Area Health Education Center at (620) 235-4040. Brochure to follow.

We are pleased to announce that the hotel contracts have been signed and room blocks are now available at five hotels in Salina for the 2020 Kansas Immunization Conference. Please see the chart below for a list of hotels and details related to number of rooms in our block, room rate and deadline for guaranteed rate. When booking, please mention the Kansas Immunization Conference to get the rate listed.

Hotel	Rooms	Price	Deadline	Phone
Holiday Inn Express	50	129.99	5/6/2020	785-404-3300
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Mariot Salina	50	96.00 Kings, 129.99 Double Queen	5/8/2020	785-515-5333
Holiday Inn Salina	50	96.00 Kings, 129.99 Double Queen	5/8/2020	785-404-6767
Country Inn & Suites	35	84.00 Assorted Rooms	5/26/2020	785-827-1271
Hilton Garden	10	139.00 2 Queen Standard	5/7/2020	785-309-0440